

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Social Science of the Internet



### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time
Expected length	10 months	22 months

### About the course

The MSc in Social Science of the Internet provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to question and understand the multi-faceted ways in which the internet and emerging digital technologies are influencing and affecting our lives, societies, businesses, and governments.

Learning from the Oxford Internet Institute's world-leading multi-disciplinary faculty, students of the MSc course will leave with new knowledge on important social science concepts and theories, research methods, technological fundamentals, and how to conduct and communicate high-quality research.

The OII's busy calendar of seminars and events showcases many of the most noteworthy people in internet research, innovation and policy, allowing you to engage with the cutting edge of scholarship and debates around digital culture, internet technologies and AI.

### Core Courses

You will take the following core courses.

#### Internet and Society

An overview of the major findings to date regarding the social implications of the Internet, drawing material from several social science disciplines, including communication studies, sociology, and political science.

Part-time students take this course in their first year of study.

#### Internet Technologies and Regulation

Exploring the interplay between social and technological shaping of the Internet, and associated policy implications. It outlines the Internet's origins and technical architecture and its embeddedness in a long history of communication technologies.

Part-time students take this course in their second year of study.

#### Digital Social Research: Methods Core

This course provides students with the opportunity to engage with the methodological, ethical and philosophical underpinnings of quantitative and qualitative social science research practices.

Part-time students take this course in their first year of study.

#### Digital Social Research: Statistics Core

This course introduces students to statistics for the social sciences, with an emphasis on application to research on the Internet and society.

Part-time students take this course in their second year of study.

#### Thesis Seminar

During the third term, you will attend weekly seminars where you will present and develop your thesis research and receive feedback from fellow students and academic staff.

Part-time students present their research in their second year of study.

### Option subjects

You will take three option modules during the second term of the year; one substantive option course, one methods option course, and one further option course from either category.

If you are studying part-time, you will generally take two options in the second term of your first year and one further option in the second term of your second year.

Recent option modules have included:

### **Substantive Options**

- Cultural Analytics
- Digital Capitalism and Its Inequalities
- Digital Era Government and Politics
- Education, the Internet and Society (run in the Department of Education)
- Internet Economics
- Political Economy of Digital Markets
- Law and the Internet
- Subversive Technologies

### **Methods Options**

- Advanced Statistics for Internet Research
- Computational Methods for the Social Sciences
- Digital Interviewing and Qualitative Data Analysis
- Digital Ethnography

Please note that not all Substantive or Methods options run every year.

### **Attendance**

The course can be studied full-time or part-time with both modes requiring attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the University's Residence requirements. Part-time students are required to attend course-related activities in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year.

The full-time course is studied over 10 months. The part-time course has the same requirements, but is studied over 22 months.

The degree and expectations for both modes of study are equally rigorous: if you study part-time, you will take your classes with your fellow full-time students, but spread over two years to accommodate work and personal circumstances. Whether you choose to apply for the part-time or full-time course, you will be part of a close-knit cohort of students from diverse backgrounds.

If studying full-time, you will be expected to spend around 40 hours studying each week during term and you will also be expected to complete assignments and undertake further study during vacations. During the first (Michaelmas) and second (Hilary) terms, you will be advised to allocate between 10 and 15 hours each week for each course you undertake.

This includes:

- At least six hours per week on reading, preparation and formative assignments for each core/option course
- 10 to 12 hours per week in classes (typically one and a half to two hours of lectures per course, plus a one-hour seminar or workshop on certain core and methods-based courses)

If studying part-time, you will be expected to commit to a proportional workload. The course content for the part-time degree is identical to that taken by full-time students but will be completed in two years rather than one year. You will be expected to attend lectures, seminars and workshops in the department for one to two days a week during term-time, and to participate fully in the life of this friendly and dynamic department.

### **Employment**

Whilst many graduate students do undertake employment to support their studies, please remember that for students on the full-time arrangement of the OII's MSc course, it is not recommended that students take on even part-time employment during term-time.

Within these limitations, some of the OII's existing MSc students have been employed on a short-term basis as research assistants on grant-funded projects, but only with the agreement of their supervisor and the MSc course director.

Part-time students will often have jobs outside their studies at Oxford; part-time graduate students should ensure that any paid work does not interfere with the commitment of time required for their course, and that they have spoken with their employer to ensure that any study leave requirements may be accommodated.

### **Resources to support your study**

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of world-class resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students, to support with learning and research.

Our MSc students are provided with hot-desk working space in the department. You will have access to OII's dedicated computing facilities and IT support, which includes collaborative software, server space, and computing resources, as well as access to ARC, Oxford's high-performance computing cluster.

The OII library specialises in social sciences, technology and computing, including the texts required for the degree. Additionally, the Social Sciences Library provides valuable additional resources which many students choose to take advantage of.

### **Supervision**

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Oxford Internet Institute and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Oxford Internet Institute.

MSc students can expect to meet with their supervisor 8-10 times over the course of the degree. Students are assigned a general supervisor in their first term who will be the point of contact for keeping an eye on their academic progress. In the second term (Hilary term), students are reassigned to a thesis supervisor in order to ensure that student needs and skills are properly matched. Thesis supervisors are responsible for giving written feedback on at least one complete draft of the student's thesis prior to submission as well as additional advice on research design, data access, and analysis methods.

### **Assessment**

Assessments will consist of written examination and/or coursework, followed by the submission of a dissertation.

In addition to the options you take, you will write a thesis. The thesis is the capstone to the MSc experience. It provides students with the opportunity to apply the methods and approaches they have covered in the other parts of the course and carry out a substantive piece of academic research, including designing a study, carrying out data collection and analysis, and developing a theoretical framework.

Part-time students will write their dissertations in the third term of their second year, but will be encouraged to start planning their dissertation from their first year.

### **Changes to this course**

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

## Costs

### Annual fees for entry in 2025-26

#### Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£27,600
Overseas	£36,250

#### Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£13,800
Overseas	£18,125

### Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

### Additional cost information

#### Full-time study

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

#### Part-time study

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

## Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for the 2025-26 academic year are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

### Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£330	£515
<b>Accommodation</b>	£790	£955
<b>Personal items</b>	£200	£335
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£100
<b>Study costs</b>	£40	£90
<b>Other</b>	£20	£40
<b>Total</b>	£1,425	£2,035

### Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£2,970	£4,635
<b>Accommodation</b>	£7,110	£8,595
<b>Personal items</b>	£1,800	£3,015
<b>Social activities</b>	£405	£900
<b>Study costs</b>	£360	£810
<b>Other</b>	£180	£360
<b>Total</b>	£12,825	£18,315

### Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£3,960	£6,180
<b>Accommodation</b>	£9,480	£11,460
<b>Personal items</b>	£2,400	£4,020
<b>Social activities</b>	£540	£1,200
<b>Study costs</b>	£480	£1,080
<b>Other</b>	£240	£480
<b>Total</b>	£17,100	£24,420

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond the 2025-26 academic year, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts).

## Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email ([graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).